

Chris O'Brien

From: Lee, Jacqueline (jlee28) <jlee28@my.ccri.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 2:57 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: In Support of RI Promise (Article 1 Sec 15 and 2021 H 5524)

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the House Committee on Education:

I am a current Promise Scholar. I am writing in support of Rhode Island Promise at CCRI and urge this committee to vote in favor of making the program permanent. The cost of college is simply too expensive for many Rhode Island families. Providing two years free tuition at CCRI will provide thousands of young Rhode Islanders the opportunity to earn their degree without the **crippling debt** associated with college.

As a student, I have hope to continue my education and enter the workforce as a vital and active contributor to Rhode Island's economy. Especially now, CCRI's graduates will bring economic development and drive our state's recovery. I believe it is a good education policy and a smart economic development policy, and I can personally attest, I've benefitted from it.
am.

Personally speaking, CCRI gave me the opportunity to follow my education pathway in film & communications that I otherwise wouldn't have been able to pursue without the Promise Program. I have been an active contributor to Rhode Island's economy by working with District Hall Providence. Here I work on editing their programs focused on number of different things, but especially their programs connecting entrepreneurs to the resources they need to grow their business. THE PROMISE PROGRAM CHANGED MY LIFE. I was able to work to support my family, but also focus on my education and personal development that I may have been forced to sacrifice at the time I planned to enter college. I hope that this opportunity continues to be available for others like me.

For these reasons, I ask that you support making the program permanent and give thousands of Rhode Island students like me as well as their families the security knowing a college education can be a reality.

If you have any questions or would like to hear more about how CCRI impacted me, I encourage you to reach out.

Sincerely,
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